

VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
Minutes
Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 5:00 P.M.
Council Chambers, Vigo County Annex

Pledge of Allegiance

Sheriff Jon Marvel called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Calling of the roll

Present: Bill Bryan, Brad Anderson, Ed Ping, Tim Curley, Darrick Scott, Mark Bird, Kathy Miller.

Corrections to the journal of the preceding meeting, if needed

There were no minutes presented.

Public comment

There was none.

Communications from elected officials of the County

Commissioner Judy Anderson updated the Council on issues being worked on by the Commissioners as an effort to keep communications open and to work together with the Council keeping them informed.

Ms. Anderson informed the Council on a project being worked on with Scott Swan, IT Director. A presentation was made proposing a “copy center” within the departments rather than having several desktop printers.

The Riley Locks project is moving along well.

Numbers are being gathered on the insurance issue. The changes regarding the spousal carve-out will save the county \$187,964 annually. Regarding the Trustee issue – the county has carried the Trustee employee portion. This has been going on for many years and must now be corrected. The Township must now pay the employee portion of the insurance which will save the County \$103,764 annually once it is straightened out.

152 properties were sold in the Tax Sale which is a small amount. A date has been set for a Certificate Sale which is April 7, 2010. There has been inquiries for approximately 200 parcels, which may increase to around 300 by the time of the advertisement.

The County has always had an agreement with the cable companies and has not charged for use of right of ways. The Commissioners met with the cable companies because it has been determined that there is a Code stating that the County should be charging a fee to the cable companies for the use of right of ways. This is being worked on since it is something the County is entitled to.

Commissioner Anderson complimented Sheriff Jon Marvel on supervising the Juvenile Center. She feels things are running much smoother with the combination of the expertise of the Sheriff and of the Juvenile Center staff. They have worked together and taught each other creating savings in various areas. The Commissioners are very pleased with the decision that was made.

Sheriff Jon Marvel updated the Council on various issues. The ceiling issues have been resolved with no cost to the County. There are no more leaks and inmates cannot get up into the ceilings.

In addition, Sheriff Marvel has asked the E-911 board to revisit the subject of hiring an outside E-911 Director. The board did discuss it and it has been approved. The salary for this person will come from the E-911 fund – there will be no cost to County General. Also, the board is looking at the analog system which has been in place since 911 was created. They would like to replace it with a digital system which will cost around \$300,000 which will also come from the E-911 fund. With the current analog system, if all dispatchers are busy, the phone will continue to ring. A digital system will answer with a recording after a certain amount of rings and instruct the caller to stay on the line.

President Kathy Miller announced a change to Council call schedule due to Auditor Conferences. The meetings scheduled for May 25, 2010 and October 26, 2010, will change to May 18, 2010 and October 19, 2010 respectively at 5:00 P.M.

President Kathy Miller questioned the information regarding Bond fund balances. Kylissa Miller, Chief Deputy Auditor stated that a recent payment has been made for the Jail Bond, causing a negative balance. With reduced revenues coming in, this is going to be a continued problem. Another funding source is going to be needed and should be addressed at the February or March meeting. The other bonds are going to have issues as well, maybe not this year, but probably next year. With the tax caps in place, there are many unknowns. One way to combat the tax cap issues is to reduce spending, or increase assessed values in order to get the tax rate down. Commissioner Judy Anderson stated that the Commissioners are looking at refinancing the Jail Bond in order to get the payments lowered. Kylissa Miller, Chief Deputy Auditor noted that the payment must be lowered by at least \$55,000, in addition, the costs involved in refinancing. Councilman Bill Bryan feels that it should be looked into whether or not the County Assessor has assessed property in the area of Margaret Avenue and State Road 46 such as the new Federal Express building and banks. Kylissa Miller, Chief Deputy Auditor stated that the affect of the TIF district will impact the County portion of revenues by decreasing them approximately \$300,000 a year for 15 years according to the Impact Statement. This is contingent on the City Council passing the proposal. In addition, the Impact Statement is based on a lot of estimates.

Communications from other officials or agencies

There were none.

Reports from standing committees

There were none.

Reports from select committees

There were none.

Ordinances relating to appropriations

Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2010-1

The request is to approve an appropriation in the Rainy Day fund to pay for equipment for the Highway.

Motion: To approve the request in the amount of \$467,300, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Darrick Scott, **Seconded by** Bill Bryan.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 7).

Yes: Bill Bryan, Brad Anderson, Ed Ping, Tim Curley, Darrick Scott, Mark Bird, Kathy Miller.

Additional Appropriation Ordinance 2010-2

Richard Shagley, Attorney representing the Town of Riley is asking that the loan to the Town of Riley be granted as a gift. A second possible choice is to get the funds from the Bank of New York and conduct the transaction as planned. However Mr. Shagley feels this may not be a possibility due to the fact that the funds are secured in the Bank of New York for their intended use and may not be accessible at this time. A third option may be to restructure the agreement. The fourth possible option would be for the Town of Riley to obtain a short-term loan from a local bank and continue with the original agreement.

Mr. Shagley reported that because the County loaned these funds to the Town of Riley, they were able to receive \$600,000 in stimulus funds. This allowed Phase II of the sewer project which involved the sewer collection system seepage. During this phase, troubled areas were discovered and are fixed or in the process of being fixed. The Town of Riley is now in a good place, other than this issue of the loan amount.

Councilman Brad Anderson would like to see the Town of Riley obtain a short-term loan and continue with the original agreement.

If the funds are in an interest bearing account, interest earned will be returned to the County at the end of each calendar year.

Motion: To continue loan once the check is received from the Town of Riley., **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Bill Bryan, **Seconded by** Tim Curley.

President Kathy Miller called for a five-minute recess.

President Kathy Miller called the meeting back to order.

President Kathy Miller requested information as to whether or not the funds currently in the Bank of New York are in an interest bearing account.

Councilman Bill Bryan and Councilman Tim Curley would like to rescind their motion and second respectively.

Motion: To extend loan agreement if and when the Town of Riley repays \$141,296 to the County a check may be issued to the Town of Riley and must be repaid by December 31, 2010, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Bill Bryan, **Seconded by** Tim Curley.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 7).

Yes: Bill Bryan, Brad Anderson, Ed Ping, Tim Curley, Darrick Scott, Mark Bird, Kathy Miller.

Honorary resolutions

There were none.

Resolutions relating to fiscal policies of the Council

There were none.

First reading by summary reference of proposed ordinances and resolutions

There were none.

Appointments

Alcoholic Beverage Commission – 1 Year—Stephen O. Price

E-911 Advisory Board – 1 Year—Councilman Timothy P. Curley

Emergency Management Council – 1 Year—Councilman Mark D. Bird

Pre-Disaster Planning Committee – 1 Year—Councilman Darrick Scott

Local Emergency Planning Commission – 1 Year—Councilman William Bryan

West Central Indiana Economic Development District, Inc. (2) – 1 Year—Councilman Ed Ping & Councilwoman Kathy Miller

Data Processing Board (3) – 1 Year—Councilman Brad Anderson, Councilman Darrick Scott Swan, & Bob Lane

Building Inspection – 1 Year—Councilman Ed Ping

Vigo County Fair Board – 1 Year—Councilman Mark Bird

Councilman Mark Bird would like to thank the Commissioners on their efforts in saving the County money.

Adjournment

Motion: 6:10, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Bill Bryan, **Seconded by** Tim Curley.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 7).

Yes: Bill Bryan, Brad Anderson, Ed Ping, Tim Curley, Darrick Scott, Mark Bird, Kathy Miller.